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PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

REVISION OF ASSESSMENT

OF CERTAIN VILLAGES IN THE

TALUKAS OF CHANDORE, DINDORI, NIPHAR, AND NASIK,

IN THE

NASIK COLLECTORATE.

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To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

22nd April 1874.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward a report by Colonel Waddington on the revised assessment of 98 villages of the Nasik Zilla, together with remarks by the Collector, Mr. Erskine, and Colonel Francis, Survey and Settlement Commissioner.

2. These villages were first surveyed and assessed by Captain Davidson in 1842, and the rates of assessment then introduced were in Dindori 30 per cent. and in Chandore 50 per cent. less than the old kumal rates, which were then superseded. The kumal revenue was a mere nominal amount representing what, in the opinion of the Native Revenue Officers, the district should yield. It was never realized. What the old rates actually were, I cannot discover from either of the reports now under review; but Captain Davidson's average rates were for the Dindori and Nasik villages 12 annas 3 pies per acre, and for those of Chandore 10 annas 6 pies. The progress of the district under this assessment will be found in Colonel Waddington's 27th and 28th paragraphs. *For the first nineteen years of the period there was but little progress*, but during the last eleven years revenue and cultivation increased rapidly; and it may be said that the whole of the available arable waste land has now been brought under cultivation, there being only 1,845 acres left in the Nasik and Dindori villages and 1,485 in Chandore and Niphar; the revenue having risen in the former from Rs. 44,625 in 1841 to Rs. 53,171 in 1872, and in the latter from Rs. 30,270 to Rs. 38,176 in the same period.

3. The number of wells for irrigation has increased 38 per cent. in Nasik and Dindori, and 45 per cent. in Chandore and Niphar. There was no available data of the increase in population and agricultural stock during the currency of the lease; but it may

be assumed to be identical with that in the 89 villages of Chandore and Niphar re-assessed in 1871, which was as follows :—

Inhabitants	Increase	102	per cent.
Carts		204	,,
Bullocks (Farm)		62	,,
Ploughs—no return.			
Buffaloes		71	,,
Sheep and Goats		66	,,
Horses		23	,,
Cows	Decrease	19	,,

There are 126 inhabitants to the square mile in Chandore and Niphar, and 169 in Nasik and Dindori. The people are described to be well to do and well-housed. I can vouch for the accuracy of this description. In no part of the country, except Guzerat, are there so many thriving, well-cultivated villages.

4. Such having been the material progress of these villages when they were practically excluded from all but local markets, it remains to be considered what are the rates of assessment to be imposed during the next thirty years.

5. When these villages were first settled, there was not a mile of road to be found in them; the people were in such a depressed condition that large remissions were made annually, and it was considered necessary to reduce the rates by one-half in one instance and 30 per cent. in the other. The Agra road now traverses both districts; the G. I. P. Railway has two stations within a day's march of every part of the district; the road from Nasik to Dindori is nearly finished, and will shortly be extended to Kulwan, in the Baglan Taluka, viâ the Ahiwut Bari. Chandore is connected with its Railway Station, Lassulgaum, by a good road, and a road is projected from Dindori to its station, Niphar. Few districts in Western India will be so well supplied with good roads within the next year or two, or so favourably situated as to markets. Colonel Waddington estimates, and I have no doubt correctly, that the average rise in the price of agricultural produce equals 69 per cent.; and though, of course, prices will fluctuate, there is no probability of their ever reaching their old level. Wheat, the great staple of the district, has now been successfully exported to the European markets; and they may be looked to to relieve it of its surplus produce for the future.

6. The dry-crop rates proposed by Colonel Waddington are found in paragraphs 37 and 38 of his report. They are as follows :—

Chandore and Niphar.

Class.	No. of Village	Maximum Rate.		Remarks.
		Rs.	a.	
I. ...	6	2	0	Villages on Agra road touching Pimpalgaon-Buswunt.
II. ...	8	1	12	Villages adjoining those of Class I.
III. ...	15	1	8	Villages along the Agra and Maligam roads or between them and the Railway, but farther distant from Nasik.
IV. ...	17	1	6	Villages removed from the above-mentioned roads.
V. ...	10	1	4	Villages still farther removed from those roads and adjoining the Chandore range of hills.
Total ...	56			

Dindori and Nasik.

Class.	No. of Villages.	Maximum Rate.		Remarks.
		Rs.	a.	
I. ...	1	2	4	The village of Makmalabad, which is close to the city of Nasik.
II. ...	1	2	0	Mungsar, which is only five miles from Nasik.
III. ...	7	1	12	Dugaon, which is next to Mungsar, and villages adjoining Class II. of Chandore.
IV. ...	20	1	8	Villages to the south and east of Dindori and between that town and the city of Nasik, or the Agra road.
V. ...	12	1	6	Villages to the west of Dindori, and adjoining Dangs.
VI. ...	1	1	4	Village of Sangamner adjoining Class II. of Chandore.
Total ...	42			

7. The principle on which this grouping of villages has been arranged is explained in paragraph 35, and may be briefly stated as "accessibility to markets".

8. The effect of these rates is to raise the revenue of occupied lands in Chandore and Niphar villages from Rs. 39,059 to Rs. 59,559, or 52 per cent., and in the Dindori and Nasik villages from Rs. 53,411 to 80,888, or 51 per cent. It will be remembered that the re-assessment in 1842 reduced the then existing kumal rates in Chandore 50 per cent., and in Dindori 30 per cent. The revenue of Chandore will, therefore, stand in future at nearly what it was previous to the introduction of the survey in 1842, and that of Dindori will be 21 per cent. higher.

9. The average rate per acre by the proposed rates will be for Chandore and Niphar 12 annas 8 pies, and for Dindori and Nasik 15 annas 2 pies. The rates of 1842 were for the former 10 annas 6 pies, and for the latter 12 annas 3 pies. Taking wheat as the staple of the district, and calculating at present prices and at the outturn per acre proved by the late experiments in Chandore, these rates represent a grain assessment of 26 lbs. per acre, or ·05 of the produce.

10. In 1872, when the remaining portion (88) of the Chandore and Niphar villages were re-assessed, the late Revenue Commissioner remonstrated against the very low assessment then proposed; and I should have felt it my duty on this occasion to advocate an assessment more in proportion to the rise in the prices of agricultural produce and the advantages which the district has derived from the railway, and roads, and markets; but it is now too late to insist on a higher scale. It would be inconsistent to impose a rate of assessment much higher than that sanctioned for the adjoining villages of the same talukas; and I, therefore, recommend that the rates for the first three classes should be sanctioned, and that the whole of the villages should be grouped in one or other of these classes.

11. In the 88 villages of these talukas, re-assessed in 1871, there were only three classes and one special rate. The advantages of all the villages now to be dealt with are so nearly similar with regard to markets, roads, climate, soil, and population, that I cannot see the necessity of a more minute sub-division. A distance of 5 miles more or less from a market does not make a difference in the profits of farming that would be fairly represented by 4 annas or 2 annas pes acre. The average rates are, as I have shown above, so extremely low (·05) of the average produce per acre, that there can be no doubt even of the villages least favourably situated being able to pay them without difficulty.

12. Mr. Erskine objects to the grouping of the Dindori villarge (*vide* his paragraphs 14, 15, 16, and 17) on the grounds :—

1st.—That the advantages of the new Dindori and Nasik road have been overlooked, and that at least two of the villages, Palkheir and Dindori, are *nearer* the Kherwari Railway Station than two others in a higher class.

2nd.—That the facilities for well irrigation, owing to percolation from the water retained by the new Palkheir bundara, have not received due consideration.

13. Colonel Francis admits the force of his objections with regard to three villages, Palkheir, Pimpulgaum-Khetki and Jophul, and they are accordingly raised from the 4th to the 3rd class. With regard to the remaining villages, while admitting that the advantages which the new Dindori and Nasik road affords, Colonel Francis objects to the Collector's proposed modifications, on the ground that proximity to the Dang gives them so much rain as to affect the fertility of the soil. I cannot agree with Colonel Francis. I have ridden through these villages on many occasions at all seasons, and never observed any failure of the crops from excessive rain. The average rainfall at Dindori is only 25·18, which cannot be considered excessive for a black-soil district; the rainfall of Poona is 27 inches, Nasik 23·40, Chandore 22·72, and Niphar 16·66. No attempt is made to meet Mr. Erskine's objection, that the village of Dindori is nearer the Kherwari Station than other villages of a higher class. I, however, go further than Mr. Erskine; I consider that the whole system of grouping requires re-consideration, and that it is neither necessary nor possible to assess at 4 annas per acre the minute advantage which one village obtains over another by being a mile or two nearer any particular market. This is especially the case in a district so well provided with markets and roads as that now under revision. For instance, take any village on the Agra road, say 7 miles from Nasik, and another village adjoining it similarly favoured as to soil and climate, but off the main road: they would be assessed by Colonel Waddington at Rs. 2 and Rs. 1-12 respectively; but villages on the made roads have to pay a toll—4 annas on every cart-load of produce they take to market—while those off the road are exempt from taxation. This is a hypothetical case; but it is sufficient to show how deceptive is the principle of grouping according to distance from the market. The cross country tracks offer but little obstruction to cart traffic in the fair season. It is true they are almost impassable in the monsoon, but then there is no grain to carry to market.

14. I have no objection to the maximum rate of Rs. 10 per acre plus the dry-crop rates for patusthul irrigated land. Colonel

Waddington has himself personally assessed each field, and his classification and assessment may be accepted without hesitation. It appears (paragraph 40) that he has not re-assessed the patusthul lands of Palkheir under the new bundara, "presuming that the Irrigation Department will arrange with the cultivators in the usual manner." But the Irrigation Department are not competent to undertake an operation of this nature; and Colonel Waddington should, I think, be requested to re-assess these lands. I learn from Mr. Erskine's paragraph 19 that such of them as were irrigated from the old Palkheir bundara only pay Rs. 3 per acre, which is extremely low considering the advantages which the new bundara affords.

15. No separate water-rate is to be levied on lands irrigated from wells (motusthul); they will, as usual, pay only the highest rates of dry-crop land.

16. The rate proposed for rice lands is a maximum of Rs. 5 per acre plus the soil rate; this appears reasonable. There is only 100 acres assessed at Rs. 290, which gives an average rate of Rs. 2-14-5.

17. Colonel Waddington asks for instructions whether lands irrigated from bundaras, some of masonry and some temporary rebuilt annually at the cost of the cultivators, should be assessed at patusthul rates. He thinks that, the former being improvements, assessment is barred by Section 25 of the Survey Act; but that the kutcha bundaras are not improvements, and may, therefore, be assessed. The Collector suggests that, as they have been built by the people without permission, they are encroachments on the rights of Government, and should be liable to assessment. I cannot agree with either of these gentlemen; a bundara, whether made of mud or stone, enables irrigated crops to be grown where hitherto dry-crops only have been possible, and is, therefore, an improvement; the material of which it is made, or the cost of the work, have nothing to do with the question. If it were so, it would be necessary to consider whether a good kutcha bundara was not more liable to assessment than a bad pucka one. Neither should the previous sanction of Government or its absence affect the liability of the lands under such a bundara to assessment. Government have tacitly consented to the erection of these works; and it is now too late to say that the sanction of Government should have been obtained, or, being kutcha bundaras, they are not improvements, and are, therefore, liable to assessment. I have entered more fully upon this subject when discussing the assessment of kutcha wells in Guzerat. In future the Collector might

be requested to permit no bundaras of either kind to be built without his permission.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

L. R. ASHBURNER,

Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division.

No. 131 of 1874.

To

H. N. B. ERSKINE, Esq.,

Collector of Nasik.

Nasik Districts, Camp Wavi,
16th February 1874.

Sir,

The villages to which the following report refers, and for which I now propose new rates, are 98 in number. Of these 45 belong to the Chandore Taluka, 38 to Dindori, 11 to Niphar, and 4 to Nasik (which formerly were part of Dindori). I propose to treat of them in one report, although, as the bulk of them belong to the Chandore and Dindori Talukas, I have appended two separate maps, in order that the portions pertaining to each of these talukas may be more readily distinguished. You will observe that the Dindori boundary fits on to the western boundary of the Chandore and Niphar villages.

Number of villages.

2. Most of the Chandore villages under report, and all those belonging to Niphar, are situated on, or within a short distance of, the great trunk road from Bombay to Agra, or of the roads from Chandore to the railway stations of Munmar and Lassulgaum. Some also of the more easterly villages of Dindori, for instance Khedgaon, Godegaon, Jowalki, Chinchkhed, Mohadi, Jophul, &c., are equally favourably situated with respect to proximity to the abovementioned great road ; but the western villages of Chandore, and all those of Dindori which lie to the north of the town of that name, are up to the present time unconnected by made-roads with either the rail

General description.

way or the Agra road. A new road, however, has been lately constructed, at the expense of the local funds, between Nasik and Dindori, and will, I conclude, be eventually carried on to Wan by way of the abovementioned villages. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway does not pass through any portion of the district respecting which I am writing, but there is scarcely a village which is not within a day's journey of some station on that line, or of the city of Nasik.

3. There is considerable diversity both in the natural features and productive capabilities of different parts of this tract of country. The villages to the south of Wadner and Khedgaon, and as far west nearly as the new road from Dindori to Nasik, are generally level, with much deep, black soil, producing fine crops of wheat, gram, linseed, and bajree, and in most cases a proportion of garden lands watered from *paths* in which chillies, earthnuts, sugarcane, carrots, and sometimes rice, are grown. That part of the country, on the other hand, which lies to the north of the Agra road, and between it and the Chandore range of hills, is very broken and stony, and the soil, for the most part, of the poorest description, and capable only of yielding bajree, til, koorasnee, and other inferior crops. Along the banks of the streams, however, which are numerous, and on which the villages are usually situated, a greater or less extent of land of good quality is almost invariably found, and is usually irrigated by means of channels led from the streams. Again, the country to the north and west of Dindori, and bordering on the Dangs, is of another type; the soil here also is generally black but somewhat short of depth, and owing to that or some other cause, perhaps excessive retention of moisture, the crops are less luxuriant than in the villages first described. They consist chiefly of wheat, kurdaee, and gram, bajree being very little grown and jowaree not at all. The villages to the south of Dindori and bordering the road to Nasik are usually poor, and the country rough and hilly. Most parts of the Dindori Taluka are well wooded, especially the northern portion, in which some villages contain several thousand mango trees; but that part of Chandore to the west of the Agra road is singularly devoid of trees, except in the immediate vicinity of the villages.

4. In point of rainfall the villages along the eastern border, as might be expected, have a somewhat less fall than those to the west, the average in Chandore being 22·36 inches, whilst at Dindori it is 25·18. The climate of the former part of the country, however, is more salubrious than that of the latter, in which, from its proximity to the Dangs, fever is prevalent throughout the year, but less so during the hot months, in which alone it is safe for

Europeans to reside in the district. The following statement shows the rainfall in these and the adjoining districts during the last nine years:—

Year.	Nasik.	Chandore.	Niphar.	Dindori.	REMARKS.
1863-64 ...	21·74	22·05	15·35	26·34	Up to 30th September.
1864-65 ...	18·48	10·42	14·93	20·99	
1865-66 ...	21·40	11·74	18·98	25·86	
1866-67 ...	19·06	20·57	14·00	21·84	Do. to 4th November.
1867-68 ...	27·49	22·46	17·02	26·74	
1868-69 ...	19·69	13·86	13·51	25·07	Do. to 30th do.
1869-70 ...	27·28	32·27	18·33	28·30	
1870-71 ...	33·09	41·39	21·20	28·56	
1871-72 ...	20·74	26·53	15·81	22·96	
Average...	23·21	22·36	16·57	25·18	

Total area.

5. The total area of the Chandore and Niphar villages under report is 116,811, and that of the Dindori villages 114,474 acres. Supposing, then, the returns of population to be correct, the number of inhabitants to the square mile in the former will be 126, and in the latter 169.

Wells.

6. The number of wells, in working order, in the 45 Chandore and Niphar villages is 689, and in the 38 Dindori villages 720. The increase during the term of the settlement is put down at 45 and 46 per cent., which is probably not far from correct. The increase in carts is shown as 192 and 207 respectively, which proportions also appear likely to be correct.

Population.

7. As remarked by the Survey and Settlement Commissioner, Northern Division, in his memorandum forwarding my report on the settlement of the Niphar and Chandore villages in 1872, no reliable statistical information is forthcoming with regard to the number of inhabitants-cattle, ploughs, &c., at the time of the introduction of the present settlement. Such returns as I have been able to obtain are so palpably untrustworthy, that I have thought it advisable to omit them altogether, and to confine the statement to such information as I have been able to collect regarding the present statistical condition of the various villages now under report. An abstract of these returns is contained in the two following tables :—

Table showing present Statistical Condition of the 98 Villages referred to in the Report.

Description.	Chandore and Niphar.	Dindori and Nasik.
	Year 1869-70.	Year 1872-73.
Inhabitants	22,992	30,333
Carts	1,148	1,482
Bullocks	8,825	11,842
Cows	8,078	8,625
Ploughs	2,194	2,318
Buffaloes	2,665	2,559
Sheep and Goats	8,663	3,673
Horses	701	765

Principal places.

8. There is a Mamlutdar's station at Chandore, and another at Dindori, but the latter can scarcely claim to be called a town. Chandore is a place which was formerly of some importance, as the adjoining fort commanded one of the strong passes between Khandesh and the Deccan. There was also a mint in the fort and a palace belonging to His Highness Holkar, which is now uninhabited. Since the accession of the British Government, however, this town has greatly declined, as may be seen from the numerous ruins in the neighbourhood; and the opening of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has turned away much of the traffic which used to pass through Chandore on its way to and from Bombay. There are, however, 5,170 inhabitants, and a small manufacture of turbans, sarees, and other textile fabrics is still carried on.

Markets.

9. The local markets are numerous, the principal ones being Chandore, Dindori, Pimpalgaon-Baswant, Wadner, Wadkher, Wani, Waghare, and Janori. Most of the surplus produce, however, finds its way to the various stations of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, which, as remarked in a former paragraph, are within easy reach of all the villages now under review ; or to the town of Nasik, which is most conveniently situated with regard to many of them.

Rivers.

10. The Chandore Taluka is traversed by numerous small rivers and streams which have their source in the Satmulla hills, and generally run throughout the year. The principal are the Goce, Parsool, Shelu, Wadali, Kajli, Parusnee, and Netravati, on all of which many old

bundaras exist. In Dindori the chief rivers are the Kolvan, Kadwa, and Bangunga, which are all considerable streams, and contribute essentially by their abundant and fertilizing waters to the prosperity of the districts through which their courses lie.

Husbandry.

11. Great pains are bestowed on the tilling of the ground, especially on that of the better description of dry-crop soils and of graden lands, and in keeping the fields free from weeds. Every scrap of manure is carefully collected and stored in pits, of which each householder has one or more in the vicinity of the village. The manure is chiefly applied to irrigated lands (of which almost every village has some), where, on account of the exhausting nature of the crops grown and the incessant cropping, it is absolutely essential, but dry-crop lands also are not unfrequently manured.

Crops grown on unirrigated lands.

12. In good soils the same crops are frequently grown year after year without any rotation, but in poor soils the same course of cropping is followed as in other parts of the country, the staple crops, however, varying in different parts of the district. For instance, in the Chandore villages bajree is the staple, whilst in those of Niphar and the northern parts of Dindori wheat and gram predominate. There is also a small quantity of rice grown in the latter-named district, but it does not exceed 3 per cent. of the occupied area. Jowaree is cultivated as a rubbee crop to some extent in the villages east of Chandore. Flax, kurdaee, koorasnee, til, and various oil-seeds are usually found intermixed with other corps, as is the custom in the Poona Districts. The villages south of the town of Dindori, in which much of the soil is of a lighter description, grow principally bajree. In the Dindori Taluka much occupied land is purposely left under grass, for which there is a large and remunerative sale in the neighbouring city of Nasik, and which is also required as fodder for their cattle in place of jowaree, of which but little is grown.

Garden crops.

13. The garden crops are sugar, wheat, earthnuts, chillies, brinjals, and vegetables of different kinds, and under a few of the best bundaras "Kamode" rice. Sugar is frequently grown under *paths*, which are not perennial, provided a well is available to supplement the water-supply; but Kamode rice does not appear to be raised except by purely *path* irrigation. Where the *path* supply is good the rotation is triennial, being—1st year sugar, 2nd year earthnuts, and 3rd year rice or wheat; but under an inferior supply the course is extended over four years, if sugar form one of the crops, and in that case, as above said, well aid is essential. The proportions of

the different kinds of grain cultivated last year in the villages of the two talukas were as follows :—

Chandore.		*Dindori.*	
Bajree	71·8	Wheat	27·36
Wheat	8·6	Bajree	18·13
Jowaree	2·9	Gram	6·45
Gram	2·3	Ooreed	5·11
Kooltee	2·0	Khoorasnee	4·98
Sugar	0·5	Naglee	2·92
Tobacco	0·25	Rice	2·71
Rice	0·1	Toor	1·74
Miscellaneous	14·43	Sawa	1·65
		Bhoocemoog	1·49
		Jowaree	1·38
		Sugar	1·35
		Kurdaee	1·13
		Chillies	0·82
		Mathee	0·48
		Vegetables	0·44
		Mussoor	0·42
		Flax	0·33
		Tobacco	0·26
		Miscellaneous	20·85
Total...	100	Total...	100

14. The above returns, which are supplied by the district officers, are, probably, not to be entirely relied on. There is no doubt that, as mentioned in a former paragraph, a great deal of land is purposely left under grass in the Dindori Taluka, which may, perhaps, account for the larger area shown as "miscellaneous" in the crop return for that taluka. The proportions of the staple crops appear to be fairly correct as far as my own observation enables me to judge, though I am inclined to think that the amount of land shown as being under wheat and gram is somewhat understated in both districts.

Condition of people.

15. The villages in this part of the country are usually superior to those in Poona or Sholapur, and the people appear to be in good circumstances judging from their dress, the numerous stacks in the yards, and the piles of teak beams which are found in almost every village, and of which mention is also made by Captain Davidson. These are brought up from the Penth and Soolgana forests at the time

of year when their cattle are not required in the fields, and sold at a good profit. The custom, too, which is common, of driving light "Tangas"—drawn by ponies or oxen—points to the same conclusion.

Bundaras.

16. Most of the masonry bundaras were constructed from 50 to 150 years ago; they are small works, erected probably at little cost, and not unfrequently by the villagers themselves. Some were built by private individuals to whom rent-free lands were assigned in recognition of their public spirit. The dams at Pimpalgaon-Khetki, Khedgaon, Pachora, Shirsane, &c., were of this number. I have inspected many of the bundaras personally, and they have all been visited by my assistants. Many of the dams are more or less out of repair, and some require immediate attention. There are also some instances in which the people have petitioned that Government will construct masonry dams in place of the temporary mud and stone barriers which require to be annually renewed, and sometimes at considerable labour and expense. I am of opinion that in some cases the erection of masonry dams would materially increase the available water-supply, and the people would no doubt be willing to pay higher water-rates. I would also suggest that a periodical inspection of all the bundaras should be made by the Irrigation Department, and timely repairs executed where necessary. I append a statement showing some instances of bundaras requiring repair, and others which it would be desirable, in my opinion, to replace by masonry dams.

Increase in prices of produce.

17. I have already entered so fully into the question of the rise in the price of grain in my former report on the Niphar rates, that it appears useless to travel over the same ground again. There can, however, be no question that the rates of increase lately assumed by the Survey Commissioner, Northern Division, as being fairly applicable as a standard, in the case of a portion of the Bhimthari Taluka, *viz.* 69 per cent., may be safely taken to apply in the case of the villages under consideration.

18. In the same report I gave a list of cases of sale and mortgage of land; but as it is so difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the circumstances under which the various transactions took place, and how far they may be looked on as *bonâ-fide* operations, and thus affording an index as to the real value of land, I will not in this report adduce any fresh instances, the more especially that those before given will equally apply (for what they may be thought worth) to the villages now under consideration.

19. If we compare the diagram given at pages 68 and 79 of Captain Davidson's report on his rates for the Chandore and Wan-Dindori Talukas, we see that in both cases the fluctuations in the revenue during the years between 1818 and 1842 were very great, and the falling off in cultivation and collections most abrupt and startling. The years 1824, 1829, 1832, and 1838 are conspicuous for heavy remissions, especially in Chandore, in which district also in the years 1829 and 1832 cultivation appears to have been at a very low ebb. In the Dindori diagram the area under cultivation is not given, but the fluctuations in the revenue were less violent, owing to causes to which I shall allude further hereafter.

20. The following statements show the total assessment on the villages now under report, the proportion of it which was on occupied and unoccupied lands, and the amount of collections and remissions during the five years preceding the present settlement. The proportion of waste assessed land, as you will observe, during this period was much greater in Chandore than Dindori, the average assessment on it for the ten years being Rs. 29,752 out of a total sum of Rs. 67,122, or 44 per cent., whilst in Dindori it was only Rs. 24,166 out of a total assessment of Rs. 77,007, or 36 per cent. The average remissions were in Chandore 10·6 and in Dindori 7·5 per cent. of the assessment on cultivated land. The highest remissions were in the year 1838, and amounted to Rs. 10,654 and Rs. 14,444, or 31 and 29 per cent. respectively.

Chandore and Niphar Villages.

Years.	Number of Villages.	Total assessment excluding Inam.	Deduct assessment on unoccupied land.	Assessment on occupied land.	Remissions.	Collections.
1837-38	56	66,875	32,134	34,41	2,476	32,265
1838-39	56	66,816	33,039	33,777	10,654	23,123
1839-40	56	67,041	29,988	37,053	3,023	34,030
1840-41	56	67,460	28,457	39,003	1,181	37,822
1841-42	56	67,421	25,143	42,278	2,286	39,992
Average ...	56	67,122	29,752	37,370	3,924	33,446

Dindori and Nasik Villages.

Years.	Number of Villages.	Total assessment excluding Inam.	Deduct assessment on unoccupied land.	Assessment on occupied land.	Remissions.	Collections.
1837-38	42	76,373	27,109	49,264	1,857	47,407
1838-39	42	76,650	27,138	49,512	14,444	35,068
1839-40	42	77,003	24,477	52,526	2,337	50 189
1840-41	42	77,402	22,118	55,284	630	54,654
1841-42	42	77,605	19,986	57,619	757	56,862
Average ...	42	77,007	24,166	52,841	4,005	48,883

Dindori—1st ten years of settlement.

21. After the introduction of the new rates in 1842 the cultivation fell off from 53,624 to 49,511, the proportion of waste in 1845 having been 24,173 acres, or 33 per cent.; but from that time cultivation increased steadily until 1851, when it comprised 57,213 acres. The collections also rose from Rs. 43,430 in 1842 to Rs. 46,392, or nearly 7 per cent. There were remissions to the amount of Rs. 1,842 in the first year of the settlement, and trifling sums were foregone in the last four years of this period.

2nd 10 years.

22. During the second decade slight remissions again occured in each year up to 1855, but, notwithstanding, both cultivation and collections steadily improved, until in 1861 the former amounted to 73,580 acres and the latter to Rs. 52,976, there having been no remissions since 1856.

Concluding period of lease.

23. In the first six years of the concluding period (which comprises eleven years) the whole of the revenue was collected, and, indeed, the remissions have been nominal, the total amount from 1861 to 1872 having been only Rs. 398; also nearly the whole of the assessed waste land has been absorbed, there being last year only 1,845 acres assessed at Rs. 661. The average rate per acre has been 12 annas 3 pies.

Chandore villages—1st Decade.

24. In the first year of the settlement the cultivated area was only 38,014 acres, the assessment on it being Rs. 30,062, the remissions Rs. 595, and the collections Rs. 29,467. In the sixth year of the lease the cultivation had risen to 48,743 acres and the collection to Rs. 33,462, but subsequently both fell off until in 1851 the cultivation was 44,589 acres, and the collections only 28,505, there being in that year remissions to the extent of Rs. 2,894. The average occupied area during this decade was 43,235 acres, collections Rs. 30,848, and remissions Rs. 420.

2nd Decade.

25. In the course of the second decade cultivation and collections steadily increased, the average of the former being 49,735 acres, and collections Rs. 33,627, the annual remissions having been Rs. 110.

Last eleven years.

26. During the last eleven years the occupied area has been 62,700 acres, and the average collections Rs. 38,176; there have been no remissions, and the available unoccupied area is only 1,485 acres. The average rate per acre has been 10 annas 6 pies.

Contrasted statement for 41 years.

27. The following statements exhibit the general progress of the two districts during the last forty-one years :—

Chandore and Niphar Villages.

Period.	Average annual collections.	Increase over preceding period.	Increase over 10 years' preceding settlement.	Per cent. increase. Over preceding period.	Per cent. increase. Over 10 years' preceding settlement.	Remissions.	Percentage of remissions to total assessment.	REMARKS.
Ten years from 1832 to 1841	30,270	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,937	13	
Ten years from 1842 to 1851	30 848	578	578	1·9	1·9	417	1·3	Average remissions Rs. 176=·53 of total assessment.
Ten years from 1852 to 1861	33,627	2,779	3,357	8·1	11	110	·3	
Eleven years from 1862 to 1872	38, 176	4,549	7,906	13	25·9	...	...	

Dindori Villages.

Period.	Average annual collections.	Increase over preceding period.	Increase over 10 years' preceding settlement.	Per cent increase. Over preceding period.	Per cent increase. Over 10 years' preceding settlement.	Remissions.	Percentage of remissions to total assessment.	Remarks.
Ten years from 1832 to 1841	44,625	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,960	9·	
Ten years from 1842 to 1851	45,113	488	488	1·09	1·09	236	·5	Average remission Rs. 101=205 of total assessment.
Ten years from 1852 to 1861	48,897	3,784	4,272	8·3	9 5	42	·08	
Eleven years from 1862 to 1872	53,171	4,274	8,546	8·7	19·0	36	.07	

28. You will observe that the increase in cultivation and revenue, although varying as to the periods in which it took place, was, on the whole, very uniform in both districts during the first twenty years of the present settlement, but that during the last few years it has been greater in Chandore than in Dindori. This is chiefly owing to the fact that there was more waste land in the former district than the latter, in which in 1862 there were in all 2,647 acres of unoccupied land available, of which only 802 were taken up, whereas in Chandore more than 8,000 acres of increased cultivation are recorded. The progress, however, of both districts during the period of the settlement is equally satisfactory.

Lieutenant Davidson's report on Wan-Dindori.

29. Lieutenant Davidson in his report on Wan-Dindori brings to notice the fact (to which I have already alluded) that, although the collections in Chandore and Wan-Dindori, prior to the settlement, had fluctuated in the same *manner*, they had not done so to the same *degree*, the collections in the latter district during seasons of unusual failure having never been so far below the average, nor those in good years so far above it, as in Chandore. He attributes this to several causes :—

1*st.*—That Wan-Dindori, in consequence of its vicinity to the ghauts and a wooded country, was less liable to draught;

2*nd.*—That the old assessment was much lighter ;

3*rd.*—That the extensive traffic in timber which was carried on by the inhabitants of two-thirds of its villages, enabled them to meet their instalments of land revenue from a source independent of the sale of their crops.

30. In his 13th paragraph Lieutenant Davidson comes to the conclusion that with respect to markets the two districts were much on a par. The points, then, to be taken into consideration in determining whether a higher rate of assessment should be imposed on Wan-Dindori than Chandore, were those detailed in my last paragraph.

31. With respect to the first, the greater certainty of rain, Lieutenant Davidson concludes that it should have its full weight. The second, *viz.*, the advantage of a lighter assessment, ceased on the introduction of uniform rates, and the third, *viz.*, the trade in wood, he considered of such a nature that it could not be included among the justifiable reasons for the imposition of an extra tax on the land. The only advantage then enjoyed by Wan-Dindori which would bear on the question of new rates was that of climate.

32. With respect to climate, Lieutenant Davidson did not consider the advantage in that respect possessed by Dindori to be sufficient to influence the new rates. It is probable, too, (as he suggested) that what difference there was has become less, as cultivation has increased and the jungle been cleared.

33. The imposition of the new rates in Wan-Dindori caused a reduction on the old kumal of 30 per cent. and an increase on past collections of 25 per cent. In Chandore the effect of the settlement had been to reduce the old kumal by 50 per cent., and to add 26 per cent. to the sum of the past collections. The disparity in the reduction of the kumal of the two districts is explained by Lieutenant Davidson as being due to the striking inequality of the former rates.

Contrast with present day.

34. At the present day the conditions of the two districts with regard to all the points above enumerated, with the exception of climate, are considerably changed. With respect to facilities for disposing of their produce, the inhabitants of Chandore and Niphar have been gainers by the construction of the Agra road and G. I. P. Railway to a much greater extent than those of Dindori, except in the case of a few of the most easterly villages. The trade in wood, too, on which so much stress is laid by Lieutenant Davidson as a source of prosperity in Dindori, has fallen off very considerably ; nor is it confined to the Dindori villages, for it is almost as profitable for the Chandore people to convey timber to the different railway stations as it is for those of Dindori, the only extra expense to the former being that of driving their unladen bullocks to the same jungles to which the Dindori people resort.

35. The rainfall registered at Dindori, as shown in the statement below my paragraph 4, is somewhat better than that at Chandore, but as the town of Chandore is situated considerably to the east of most of the villages now under report, it is probable that the rainfall in their case approximates more nearly to that of Dindori. Assuming, then, that in other respects the two districts are on a par, I will proceed to distribute my rates chiefly with reference to the facilities of disposing of their produce enjoyed by the different groups.

Basis of new rates.

36. In fixing my rates for the Niphar villages, which adjoin those now in question, I assumed Rs. 2 as the maximum dry-crop rate for villages near the railway with a special increase of 4 annas in a few villages immediately adjoining railway stations. The Rs. 2 maximum I extended to villages on and close to the Agra road as far as Pimpalgaon-Baswant, reducing the maximum to Rs. 1-12-0, and Rs. 1-8, as the villages receded further from the railway and from Nasik.

37. I purpose now to take the rates then fixed by me as a basis from which to start, and to modify them in the case of the present villages with reference to their several circumstances. The grouping, which I propose, will be readily understood from the accompanying maps, and the number of villages contained in each group is exhibited in the following statements :—

Chandore and Niphar.

Class.	No. of villages.	Maximum Rate.				REMARKS.
		Rs.	a.	p.		
I.	6	2	0	0		Villages on Agra road touching Pimpalgaon-Baswant.
II.	8	1	12	0		Villages adjoining those of Class I.
III.	15	1	8	0		Villages along the Agra and Manmar roads, or between them and the railway, but further distant from Nasik.
IV.	17	1	6	0		Villages removed from the abovementioned roads.
V.	10	1	4	0		Villages still further removed from those roads and adjoining the Chandore range of hills.
Total	56					

Dindori and Nasik.

Class.	No. of Villages.	Maximum Rate.			Remarks.
		Rs.	a.	p.	
I.	1	2	4	0	The villages of Makmalabad which is close to the city of Nasik.
II.	1	2	0	0	Mungsar which is only five miles from Nasik.
III.	7	1	12	0	Dugaon which is next to Mungsar, and villages adjoining Class 2 of Chandore.
IV.	20	1	8	0	Villages to the south and east of Dindori and between that town and the city of Nasik or the Agra road.
V.	12	1	6	0	Villages of the west of Dindori and adjoining Dangs.
VI.	1	1	4	0	Village of Sangamner adjoining Class 5 of Chandore.
	42				

Rates for Patusthul Lands.

38. With regard to the water-rates to be imposed on patusthul lands, they must naturally vary in each village according to its situation, the nature of the supply, the distance from the distributing point, the quality of the soil, &c. I have myself carefully gone through each village, field by field, and thus fixed the water-rate of each individual number. The highest rate for water imposed in the Niphar Taluka was Rs. 10 : this was only in the case of one village, Pimpalgaon-Baswant, and I do not think there is any village, among those now under report, in which the supply is quite so good, except, perhaps, Khedgaon and Lakmapur (in the latter village it is first class), but in consequence of their being less advantageously situated than Pimpalgaon I have fixed the maximum in their case at Rs. 9. The statement accompanying this report exhibits the highest water-rate for each village in which there is any patusthul land. These rates are in addition to, and exclusive of, the dry-crop assessment.

Dams constructed at expense of private individuals.

39. In some villages masonry dams have been constructed since the last settlement by the villagers at their own expense, and in others the people are in the habit of annually building temporary dams of mud and stone, the lands under which have hitherto paid no assessment on account of water. In the former case it appears to me that the levy of an extra rate on

account of water is clearly barred by Section XXX. of the Survey Act. In the latter I am of opinion that the cess may be imposed on the occasion of a revised settlement being introduced. I have had the lands under both kinds of works assessed as patusthul, in order that a correct record of the irrigated area may be ensured; but I would solicit the instructions of Government whether the assessment on account of water is to be levied in the case of lands irrigated from masonry dams erected at the expense of the people.

Dam at Palkheir.

40. A large masonry dam has lately been constructed by Government across the river Kadwa at Palkheir, and as the patusthul lands of that village will be considerably affected, both as to the amount of land irrigated and the supply of water when the new work is completed, I have left its present patusthul rates unaltered, as the Irrigation Department will, I presume, arrange with the cultivators in the usual manner.

Lands watered from wells.

41. With respect to lands watered from wells the same course has been pursued that was sanctioned by Government in the case of the Niphar Taluka, and no water-rate fixed on such lands, the maximum dry-crop rate of the village having alone been imposed on such lands as have hitherto been assessed under wells. I am not aware whether it is the intention of Government to extend this exemption to all the districts which are now coming under revision, but I am of opinion that it would be true policy to encourage the construction of new wells by the remission of this tax, the amount of which, although insignificant as an item of the Imperial revenue, would, at least, double the assessment on lands thus irrigated.

Rice land.

42. There is a very small quantity of rice land in the part of Dindori under report, and of this nearly three-fourths are in one village, that of Wadgaon. I propose the same maximum rate that was lately sanctioned for the Mawal villages of the Poona Collectorate for land of this description, *viz.* Rs. 5. The total area is only 100 acres, and the assessment Rs. 290, or an average of Rs. 2-14-5 per acre.

Effects of revision survey.

43. The area and assessment of the two districts as ascertained and fixed by the revised settlement is set forth in the following statements, and contrasted with the same as it stood under the old survey.

Effects of New Rates in Fifty-six Villages of Chandore and Niphar.

	Occupied Land.		Unoccupied Land.		Grand Total.	
	Area.	Assessment.	Area.	Assessment.	Area.	Assessment.
	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Area and assessment according to proposed rates.	75,469	59,559	2,401	588	77,870	60,147
Do. do. present Survey ...	64,022	39,059	1,485	360	65,507	39,4
Increase...	11,447	20,500	916	228	12,363	20,728
Decrease...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Effects of New Rates in Forty-two Villages of Dindori and Nasik.

	Occupied Land.		Unoccupied Land.		Grand Total.	
	Area.	Assessment.	Area.	Assessment.	Area.	Assessment
	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Area and assessment according to proposed rates.	85,401	80,888	1,766	539	87 7 67	81,427
Do. do. present Survey.	74,481	53,411	1,845	663	76,326	54,072
Increase...	10,920	27,477	...	...	10,920	27,477
Decrease...	...	...	79	122	79	

Increase caused by new rates.

44. You will see from the above statements that the assessment on occupied lands in the fifty-six Chandore and Niphar villages is increased from Rs. 39,059 to Rs. 59,559, or 52 per cent., and in those of Dindori and Nasik it is raised from Rs. 53,411 to Rs. 80,888, or 51 per cent., the average increase in the two districts being thus nearly identical. The total land revenue of the ninety-eight villages, including Rs. 1,127 on assessed waste land, amounts to Rs. 1,41,574 in place of Rs. 93,493, which is equivalent to an increase of 51·4 per cent; this, however, will probably be slightly modified when the calculations have been finally examined and corrected.

45. The subjoined statement shows at a glance all particulars regarding the area and assessment of the different descriptions of land under the present and the proposed rates. The existing average rate per acre in the Chandore villages under all heads is annas 6, pies 8, and in those of Dindori it is annas 8. By my proposals these rates stand at 10 annas 1 pie and 12 annas 4 pies, respectively. The average rate on land irrigated from wells and dams was Rs. 3-13-0 and Rs. 4-1-6, inclusive of the Jeeraet assessment; these now become Rs. 4-2-5 and Rs. 4-10-6 in addition to the Jeeraet rate. All purely mothusthul lands, as before mentioned, have been assessed only at the highest dry-crop rates :—

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STATEMENT contrasting Present and Proposed Area and Assessment.

No. of Villages.	Taluka.	According to Present Settlement.									According to Revised Proposals.											
		Dry Crop.			Patusthul.			Total.			Dry Crop.			Rice.			Patusthul.			Total.		
		Acres.	Assessment.	Average Rate per Acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average Rate per Acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average Rate per Acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average rate per Acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average Rate per Acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average Rate per Acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average Rate per Acre.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.
56	Chandore and Niphar	60,393	25,212	0 6 8	3,629	13,847	3 13 1	64,022	39,059	0 9 9	72,085	45,510	0 10 1	..	..	....	3,384	14,049	4 2 5	75,469	59,559	0 12 8
42	Dindori and Nasik.. ..	69,994	35,044	0 8 0	4,487	18,367	4 1 6	74,481	53,411	0 11 6	81,478	62,804	0 12 4	100	290	2 14 5	3,823	17,794	4 10 6	85,401	80,888	0 15 2
98	Average of all the villages	130,387	60,256	0 7 5	8,116	32,214	3 15 6	138,503	92,470	0 10 8	153,563	108,314	0 11 3	100	290	2 14 5	7,207	31,843	4 6 8	160,870	140,447	0 14 0

Causes of unusual increase in certain villages.

46. The greatest increase occurs in the village of Sirasgaon, (No. 5) belonging to the Niphar Taluka, and amounts to 102 per cent. You will, however, observe that the average rate per acre is less than that of any of the villages contiguous to it, and which come under the same class, and even less than that of adjoining villages which are in a lower class, and of which the assessment is not unduly raised. I can only conclude, therefore, that at the former settlement this village was assessed at a disproportionately low rate, and that to put it on an equality with the other villages, which are similarly situated, the proposed increase is necessary and proper. The remaining villages in which the increase is much above the average are Makmalabad and Mungsar. These are in the immediate vicinity of the City of Nasik, and, consequently, come under the highest maximum rates.

47. In the majority of cases of unusual increase, such as Gorhale (No. 11), Mangrul (No. 16), Narayenkhed (No. 1), Sindwad (No. 34), &c., it is chiefly to be attributed to the difference in cultivated area as now ascertained as compared with what was formerly so recorded and assessed. The reductions on account of "krab" in the above villages varied from 64 to 25 per cent. of the whole area! In Gorhale (No. 11) the amount so deducted was 823 acres out of a total area of 1,278! This has now been put down at 240 acres; but at the same time the average rate per acre on the remainder is only 3 annas 11 pies in place of 5 annas 11 pies.

Total area according to former and Revision Survey.

48. The total area of the fifty-six Chandore and Niphar villages, according to the present and revised surveys, agrees very closely, being 116,811 acres according to the latter and 114,146 as at present recorded, the difference being only 2,665 acres, or 2·3 per cent. The amount now deducted as unculturable is 10,919 acres, or 12·3 of the total occupied area; according to the old survey 24,668 acres, or 27·3 per cent., was allowed as "krab". In the forty-two Dindori and Nasik villages the correct area is found to be 114,474 acres in place of 110,231, which is equivalent to an increase of 4,243 acres, or nearly 4 per cent. The reductions on account of unculturable land, as at present recorded, are 16,004 acres, or 17 per cent., of the assessable land; by the revised survey it is found to be 4,544 acres, or 5 per cent., of the occupied land. From my experience of the two districts I should say that the proportions allowed are correct and fair.

49. The survey operations in Chandore were carried out under the supervision of Messrs. H. M. Grant and J. W. Scott, and the classification under that of Mr. A. Cumming. In Dindori, the measurement was entrusted to Messrs. Scott and Black, and the classification was superintended by Messrs. Fletcher and Francis. The usual test statements are appended.

Under whose superintendence revision work carried out.

50. The present report, in consequence of the very large amount of patasthul land to be settled, and the varying water-rates, has been one of unusual difficulty, and involving much personal labour and attention. Many of the villages also having been surveyed and classed during my absence in England, I have not had an opportunity of inspecting them ; and it was absolutely necessary that I should make a tour through that part of the district before deciding on the new rates. This I effected during the month of December ; but since then so much of my time has been taken up with introducing new rates in Supa and the Jummabundy of Pabal, that I have found it impossible to submit this report as early as I had hoped. I trust, however, that the time devoted to visiting the district and the consideration and preparation of my rates has not been wholly thrown away.

General remarks.

51. In conclusion, I would beg the favour of your forwarding this correspondence at your early convenience.

Conclusion.

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. WADDINGTON, Lieut.-Colonel,

Superintendent, Revenue Survey and Assessment.

List of Bandaras in the Chandore and Dindori Talukas in which Repairs, &c., are required.

Names of Villages.	Description of Bandaras.	Remarks.
Pimpalgaon-Baswant ...	Masonry ...	Wing wall undermined and dam leaks: requires thorough repair.
Godegaon	Do. ...	Breach in distributing channel, which should be built up with masonry dam; requires pointing and general repair. People petition that a new dam should be buit lower down the stream.
Pachore	Do. ...	Dam leaks and requires pointing. Inamdar does nothing in way of repairs.
Chiklambe	Temporary. .	People petition that a masonry dam may be substituted. I would recommend this case to attention.
Shersane	Masonry ...	Requires repairs urgently.
Bhyane	Do. ...	Requires repairs urgently.
Shelu	Temporary .	People petition for a masonry dam; recommended by Mr. Fletcher.
Lakmapur	Masonry ...	A large tree washed down by floods has carried away 3 or 4 yards of top of dam, and is still lodged.
Dudkhed	Do. ...	Aqueduct across a nulla requires repair.
Wadner	Do. ...	One dam requires repair.
Tisgaon (Dindori) ...	Do. ...	Urgent repair, as there is danger of river turning wing-wall of dam.
Rajapur	Masonry ...	There is a large extent of land under this work, and the people whose land is further away from the dam complain that those above them steal the water. They petition that regulating sluices may be built, for which they are willing to pay.

W. WADDINGTON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Revenue Survey and Assessment.

No. 683 OF 1874.

To

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER,

Northern Division.

Nasik Collector's Camp,

Dindori, 28th February 1874.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward in original a report from Lieutenant-Colonel Waddington, Superintendent, Revenue Survey and Assessment, making certain proposals for the introduction of revised rates of assessment in (98) ninety-eight villages in this Collectorate.

Letter to Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 687, dated 21st February 1872.

2. The work of revising the old and introducing new rates commenced two years ago, and in forwarding Lieutenant-Colonel Waddington's first report I discussed the various points connected with the revision that seemed to call for notice. These points having all been settled by Government by the introduction of the rates then proposed, it would be mere waste of time to go over the same ground again.

3. Taking, then, the rates already sanctioned for the re-assessed villages in the Chandore and Niphar Talukas as a starting point, I shall now consider how far the present proposals are suitable, and whether the grouping of the villages has been done judiciously.

4. But, first, it may be well to allude to the preliminary remark made by Colonel Waddington.

5. His description of the country and of the condition of the people in the villages referred to in his report is, I consider, very accurate, but it is to be remarked that in alluding to bundaras he has omitted all mention of, by far the largest bundara in the district, that at Palkheir, though he alludes to it separately later on in his report. I note the omission, as no reference is made to the effects on adjacent lands and wells of this irrigative dam; whereas, in my opinion, as will be apparent later, the effects of the large body of water stored, owing to its construction, should not be lost sight of when considering the circumstances of some of the villages situated close to it.

6. Some of the bandaras are, as mentioned by Colonel Waddington, somewhat out of repair, but all have, I believe, been in-

spected by officers of the Irrigation Public Works Department, and any defect that is reported is at once brought to the notice of the Executive Engineer for Irrigation. I shall now also send to that officer an extract from Colonel Waddington's report and a copy of the list of bundaras that he refers to.

Paragraph 33 of Colonel Waddington's letter.

7. By the introduction of the survey rates thirty years ago a reduction on the old kumal rates of 30 per cent. in the Dindori and of 50 per cent. in the Chandore Taluka was made, while by the rates now proposed there will be an increase of 50·3 per cent. in the Chandore and of 48 per cent. in the Dindori Taluka, thus bringing the Chandore revenue back almost exactly to what was fixed in olden times and increasing the Dindori rates 18 per cent. over the rates existing before the survey was commenced. The increase in each case (unless the price of produce should continue to decline and should reach a point lower than what at present seems probable) is in my opinion perfectly proper, and, considering the difference in prices and also the manner in which the country has been opened up by the construction of the railway and of roads, by no means excessive.

8. Colonel Waddington has explained what circumstances and conditions he took as his guide in grouping villages for purposes of assessment. I am inclined to think he has given too great stress to the supposed advantages to cultivators from being near the Agra road, which is comparatively little used now, certainly not so much as some of the cross roads leading to the railway stations, and I think, too, he has overlooked some other considerations of even greater importance, and I shall, therefore, propose some modifications in his grouping.

9. With regard to the dams referred to in Colonel Waddington's 39th paragraph, I think, if the dams were constructed with the previous sanction of Government, that the levy of an extra rate on account of water would certainly be barred by the Survey Act; but if previous sanction was not obtained and the dam is not within the limits of any field, then the question would arise how far the unauthorized appropriation of the river bed should be sanctioned. It has, I believe, always been the wish and intention of Government to retain in its own hands the beds of rivers, so that when carrying out irrigational schemes of importance it may not be hampered by claims for compensation for petty private works erected without notice. As Colonel Waddington has not specified the particular dams to which he refers, I cannot offer any opinion regarding them.

10. To turn now to the special rates suggested in the accompanying report.

11. First, with regard to the outlying villages in the Chandore and Niphar Talukas, I find that the rates fixed for these correspond with those in the villages around them, and as latter have already been approved, that approval may be held to apply to the proposed rates in these villages as well.

Outlying villages.

12. The other villages in the Chandore Taluka are all in the third, fourth and fifth classes, and the arrangement of these seems to have been well considered. I observe in one instance, that of Chandore Wadi, the new rates are lower by 27 per cent. than the former ones. It would have been satisfactory to have learnt the reason of this, but as clearly the village should be in the lowest class I conclude that the old rates must have been fixed by too high a standard. As the total assessment of this village is only Rs. 16. the matter is one of no great consequence.

Chandore Taluka villages.

13. The rates in all these villages seem very moderate, and I see no reason to suggest any changes.

14. The majority of the villages reported on in this taluka have been entered in the fourth class, and it is about some of these only that I have considerable doubts, as I am inclined to think that several should have been included in the third class—the class to which the villages adjoining them to the eastward belong.

Dindori Taluka villages.

15. From Colonel Waddington's report I gather that the more eastern villages referred to have been put in the higher class because they are nearer the Agra high road and the railway ; but I am inclined to think that for all particular purposes the nearly finished metalled road from Dindori to Nasik will be as useful to a group of villages near Dindori as the Agra road is to those further east, or even more so, as the distance to Nasik by that road is comparatively little, and a good market is always to be found there ; but, in addition to this, Palkheir and Dindori are actually nearer the Keirwadi Railway Station than Chinchkhed and Godegaon are to the one at Niphar, so that even by this test they should be as highly assessed.

16. Besides this the facilities for well irrigation in the group of which I am writing are great, as the long stretch of water in the river Kadwa, caused by the construction of the Palkheir Bundara, must tend to increase the water-supply to a very marked extent. The villages to which I refer are also singularly well off as regards bazaars, those at Dindori Janori, Warkhed, Wani, and even Wadneir and Pimpalgaon-Baswant being comparatively close, and Nasik being within a reasonable distance.

17. The group to which I refer consists of the following villages :—Palkheir, Dindori, Pimpalgaon-Khetki, Jopul, Rajapoor, Warkhed and Amba, a group lying along the Kadwa River, with the exception of the town of Dindori, which I include rather as being on the new road and having a large weekly bazaar.

18. Under the present system of assessment the old water rate on land watered from wells is remitted, but, as I have already pointed out, one effect of the large new dam at Palkheir must be to make such irrigation much less expensive and more reliable, and this I think should form a consideration in classing the villages; and the villages named are, in my opinion, all equal to, if not superior to, the villages further east, such as Mahadi, Chinchkhed, &c., which are in a higher class.

19. The following shows the area in each of these villages now watered from wells and from dams, and the rates on each :—

	Acres from wells.	Acres from dams.	Highest dry-crop rate levied on well lands.	Maximum rate on lands irrigated from dams.	
			Rs. a. p.		
Palkheir	26	52	1 8 0	*3	*This does not include the land irrigated from the new dam, which pays a much higher rate.
Dindori	9	350	1 8 0	7	
Pimpulgaon ... ... / Khetki		96	1 8 0	5	
Jopul	23	28	1 8 0		
Rajapur	92	701	1 8 0	7	
Warkhed	399	...	1 8 0	...	
Amba	308	...	1 8 0	...	

20. From this it is clear that the amount of irrigated land, not assessed as such, is very great, and as the facilities for such irrigation are unusually great and the villages are in other respects well situated, it may, I think, be said that this group is specially favoured in every way, and I think the rate on the well lands so low as almost to place the lands irrigated from dams at an unfair disadvantage, and for these reasons I recommend that this group be raised a class. Colonel Waddington has, in my opinion, allowed somewhat too much weight to the slightly greater nearness of the villages to the eastward to the Agra high road, and of the imagined greater nearness to the railway, but these advantages, even if they existed, would, in my humble opinion, be more than counterbalanced by the other natural advantages of the group of villages referred to.

21. I have some doubts also whether villages comparatively near to Nasik, such as Dhakambe and Wurwandi, should not be also raised a class, as the contrast between the rates in them and in the neighbouring village of Mukhmalabad seems somewhat marked; but as Colonel Waddington seems to have considered the classification very carefully, I am not prepared to recommend any change as regards these villages.

22. The only other village in this taluka regarding which I shall make any remark is Tulegaum (Wani), and I refer to it, not because I can suggest that the new rates are too high, but because, under the new assessments, the rates are raised 78 per cent., which seems a very great increase. It is true that even under the new rates the average dry-crop rates amount only to 8 annas 1 pie per acre, but the increase compared to that in neighbouring villages seems large, and as the village is not a very good one, it might perhaps be safer to change it from the fifth to the sixth class.

Nasik Taluka villages.

23. There only remain the four villages in the Nasik Taluka to be considered, and as I agree generally with what Colonel Waddington states regarding these, I have no objections to offer to the rates he proposes.

General increase of assessment.

24. The general increase caused by the revised rates is 51 per cent.; but, as will be seen from Colonel Waddington's 47th paragraph, the increase in the villages in which there has been the greatest rise has been occasioned chiefly by the increased area assessed, enormous amounts having at the time of the former assessment been left unassessed owing to the small value of land at the time. The areas thus excluded varied from 25 to 64 per cent. of the whole area of the villages he refers to.

25. As the season is already so far advanced, and it is very desirable to have the new rates introduced this season, I shall not detain these papers for further inquiry.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. N. B. ERSKINE,

Collector of Nasik.

No. 404 of 1874.

Poona, 16*th March* 1874.

MEMO.

The correspondence which is herewith forwarded contains proposals for a revision of the assessment of 98 villages situated in the Talukas of Chandore, Niphar, Dindori and Nasik as at present constituted, but the whole of which were comprised under the Chandore and Wan Dindori Talukas when first brought under settlement.

2. An entire re-survey of these villages has been made by the Poona and Nasik Survey Department, the results as compared with the former survey being shown in the following statement :—

	District.	Government Land.					Alienated Land.			Grand Total.
		Culturable assessed.	Unculturable.	Kurun.	Gairan Bonde, &c.	Total.	Culturable.	Unculturable.	Total.	
Area by new Survey.	Chandore ..	77,870	10,919	2,276	13,800	1,04,864	11,319	628	11,947	1,16,814
	Dindori ..	87,167	4,544	4,221	5,442	1,01,374	12,811	289	13,100	1,14,471
	Total...	1,65,037	15,463	6,496	19,242	2,06,238	24,130	917	25,047	2,31,285
Do. former Survey.	Chandore ..	65,507	24,668	1,993	10,997	1,03,165	9,834	1,147	10,981	1,14,146
	Dindori ..	76,326	16,004	2,115	2,609	97,054	12,593	584	13,177	1,10,231
	Total..	1,41,833	40,672	4,108	13,606	2,00,219	22,427	1,731	24,158	2,24,377
	Increase..	23,204	..	2,388	5,636	6,019	1,703	...	889	6,908
	Decrease..	..	25,209	..	..	..	..	814	..	..

3. Taking the area in the gross, it will be observed that the recent survey shows an excess of nearly 3 per cent. upon that found by the former survey. This is rather a large discrepancy, but it shows the rough manner in which the latter operation was carried out. The difference is due in a great measure to the omission of steep hilly lands from the first survey, as the theodolite, by which they can alone be measured, was not in use at the time and no record was consequently made of the area of these lands in some villages.

4. The most important difference, however, is in respect to the extent of unarable land which the new survey and classification show to be about 60 per cent. less than it was under the first settlement. In noticing cases in which the increase by new rates is unusually large, the Superintendent refers particularly to this

subject, pointing out a case in which the unarable is equal to 64 per cent. of the *total area*. The circumstance of such a large area being shown as unculturable is attributable to the practice by the first Survey officers, which has been found to obtain more or less in all the early settled districts, of excepting the poorer kinds of soil from assessment on the supposition that they were unfit for tillage. Owing, however, to the pressure for land which has been felt of late years, attention has been turned to the cultivation of these poor kinds of soil, and we now find a considerable extent of the area, shown as unarable, to be under regular cultivation.

5. In reviewing the proposals for the Karmala Taluka, Government directed that the Superintendent should be more particular in future in explaining the causes of increase and decrease of area between the new and old survey. These instructions could not, however, be attended to by him in this case, as the present report had been prepared before they were received. I trust, however, that the foregoing explanation will serve to indicate in a general way the causes to which the difference in area under particular heads is traceable in this case.

6. The villages to be resettled have considerable natural advantages as compared with ordinary Deccan villages. Dividing them into 3 tracts, the Superintendent represents his first division to contain a deep black soil, producing fine crops of wheat, linseed, and gram, and as having also a not inconsiderable extent of patusthul irrigation by which sugarcane, rice, and other valuable garden crops are produced. The second tract, which is made to include the country bordering on the Chandore hills, has a light soil, well suited for bajree, which is the chief staple produce of that division. It has also some little patusthul irrigation which is of great advantage to the people as ensuring a certain return in seasons when the rainfall is insufficient for ordinary dry-crop cultivation. And under his third division the Superintendent ranges the small tract lying on the western boundary and bordering on the Dang country, where the dry-crop cultivation is inferior, owing to excessive moisture caused by the more abundant rainfall of that locality.

7. The rainfall returns, which are to be found in para. 4, show the average fall to be about 22 inches in Chandore, 25 in Dindori, and 16 in Niphar. None of the villages to be settled are so far east as the last-named station, and it may be assumed that they have all a somewhat larger average fall than is registered there. On the other hand the fall registered at Chandore is above the average for the whole of that part of the district, as, in consequence of its proximity to the large range of hills bounding the district on the north, the fall at that station is more copious than

in the villages in the more open country. And, again, it appears to me that the Dindori fall of 25 inches scarcely indicates the more moist climate prevailing there. It is only about 3 inches in excess of the fall registered at Chandore, and this seems to be too small a difference to bring about that marked change in the cultivation of the respective parts of the districts which is noticed by the Superintendent. With the exception, therefore, of a few villages on the outer western boundary of the Dindori district, which suffer from an excess of moisture, the whole of the tract to be settled may be said to enjoy a pretty certain and sufficient rainfall for dry-crop cultivation.

8. The Superintendent describes the people to be generally in good circumstances. This, he says, is apparent from their dress, from the stores of grain and piles of teakwood which are to be seen in almost every village. The trade in wood is of long standing, it being noticed by Captain Davidson in his first report as one of the then existing sources of profit to the people of this district, and the return is no doubt greater at the present day, owing to the increased value of wood. It may also be noticed in connection with their condition, that the houses are mostly tiled and of a superior description to the flat-roofed mud buildings of ordinary Deccan villages.

9. It is satisfactory to find the Collector, Mr. Erskine (whose opinion is of great value), recording his entire concurrence in the Superintendent's statements and conclusions regarding the natural capabilities of the district and condition of the people. And I would add, that from my own knowledge of the district, which is considerable—as I have visited it several times since it has been under survey—I can fully endorse the opinions and conclusions which the Superintendent and Collector have come to.

10. The absence of the usual statistical information for the period at which the first settlement was introduced is to be regretted, but it will be seen from the Superintendent's explanation that he has been unable to obtain any trustworthy returns of the kind. None, I may mention, could be given when the first batch of Niphar villages was settled. The returns which are now submitted show the population at the present day to be 126 to the square mile in Chandore, and 169 in Dindori. But as we have no data of the kind for the first settlement period as above mentioned, there are no means of ascertaining what has been the rate of increase, or what addition has been made to the material wealth or floating capital in the shape of agricultural stock during the 30 years' lease. It may be inferred from the Superintendent's description of the present state of the country and people, as compared with that given in Captain Davidson's re-

Para. 7.

port, that a considerable improvement has taken place, but it would have been more satisfactory had actual facts been available in place of inferences drawn from general descriptions.

11. In the paras. marginally noted the Superintendent gives a very full and complete analysis of the cultivation, remissions, and collections for the period of the Settlement Lease, and for five years also anterior to it, showing the result separately for the Chandore and Dindori villages. No improvement appears to have taken place in either district during the first decade as compared with the five years anterior to settlement; cultivation, decreasing at first, was unsteady throughout the period. Remissions were also given, though small in amount, and the revenue realized, as shown by the following figures, fell short of that of the period referred to :—

20 to 28.

	Villages.
Chandore ...	56
Dindori ...	42
	98

District.	Average Collections.		
	Of 5 years prior to Settlement.	Of the 1st decade under Settlement.	Decrease.
Chandore...	33,446	30,848	2,598
Dindori	48,836	45,113	3,723

12. Improvement is certainly noticeable in the second decade. Cultivation increased, and remissions were discontinued almost altogether, but the revenue only just reached the average of the 5 years anterior to settlement given above. In the last decade, however, it went up considerably, being Rs. 38,176 for the Dindori and 53,171 for the Chandore villages; and the whole of both districts, with the exception of a trifling extent of waste, has been regularly under cultivation, and the revenue realized without remissions during the period referred to.

13. It will be observed that the contrasted statement of revenues prior and subsequent to settlement given in Colonel Waddington's 27th para. is based upon a ten years' average for the former period, whereas my comparisons have been made upon the 5 years' average. Colonel Waddington's statement gives a more favourable result, as the 10 years' average payments prior to settlement were less than those of the 5 years' used by me. But either way the result is satisfactory in a fiscal point of view.

14. Referring to the revised rates, the discussion upon which commences at para. 35, it will be observed that the Superintendent comes to the conclusion that there is no material difference between the two districts in regard to climate and natural advantages, and, therefore, that he proposes to fix his rates mainly with reference to facilities for the disposal of produce—to market advantages in fact.

15. In proceeding to carry out this plan he first explains that he takes the rates introduced in the adjoining part of the Niphar District in 1871-72 as the basis of his present proposals, recommending a 2-rupee maximum for a few villages of Chandore adjoining the Agra road and the bazar town of Pimpulgaon-Buswant, and being at the same time within easy distance of the railway. He makes four other groups of villages for this district, with rates varying from Rs. 1-12 to Rs. 1-4. The two last classes contain the villages furthest distant from markets and main roads, comprising those also situated under the Chandore hills.

	Rs.	as.
1st class	2	0
2nd do.	1	12
3rd do.	1	8
4th do.	1	6
5th do.	1	4

16. The Dindori villages he proposes to divide altogether into six groups. Distance from the Nasik market is the chief guiding rule in fixing their rates. The two first groups comprise two outlying villages bordering upon Nasik, one being close to the city, and the other only 5 miles from it. The next three groups, 3rd, 4th and 5th, which contain the bulk of the villages of this district, have their rates also regulated chiefly by distance from the above-mentioned market—those of the fifth, however, being put down somewhat lower than mere market distance would indicate to be their proper rate, because of proximity to the Dangs, which I consider to be a valid and most proper reason for reduction.

17. The Collector, whilst according his approval generally of the Superintendent's distribution of rates, suggests the advisability of transferring 8 villages from the 4th to the 3rd class, *i.e.*, from the Rs. 1-8 to the Rs. 1-12, chiefly because of the advantages for well irrigation to be derived from the Palkheir reservoir and canal, the percolation from which, he represents, will raise the water of the wells in this locality considerably above the level at which it is now drawn, and also materially increase the actual supply. I agree with the Collector in the expediency of recognizing the advantage here referred to as furnishing grounds for enhancing rates. But on examining the villages which he has selected I find that the majority of them are situated above the bundara and not within the line of country through which the percolation of water from it would spread. The only villages of those named by Mr. Erskine, which are likely to get the benefit of increased well irrigation, are

Palkheir, Pimpulgaon-Khetki and Jopul, and I would support the Collector's suggestion to have them raised from the 4th to the 3rd class ; but I am of opinion that the others should remain as grouped by the Superintendent. I have had an opportunity of consulting the latter officer about this, and find that he agrees to my modification limiting the Collector's suggestion to the villages mentioned above.

Paras. 15 to 18.

18. It will be seen, however, from the remarks on this subject, that the Collector's proposals for an enhancement of rates are not made solely on account of well irrigation advantages, but on account also of the villages being as near to the Nasik markets as other villages put under Class 3, and having also the advantage for the carriage of produce of the made road between Dindori and Nasik. I am prepared to admit that these villages possess, to a great extent, the advantages assigned to them by the Collector ; but they border upon the Dang country, where, owing to excess of moisture, the yield of ordinary dry-crop products is considerably less than in the more open part of the district. Bajri, for instance, which is cultivated as a rotation crop on black soils in the country about Pimpulgaon-Buswant, is never grown in the black soils of the villages bordering in the Dang country.

19. They are placed at a considerable disadvantage, in comparison with those alluded to above, in not having a rotation crop for their deep black soil lands, which, consequently, have to be sown annually either with wheat or gram. This system of cultivation, when continued over a series of years, affects the yield to an appreciable extent, and hence their wheat crops are decidedly inferior to those of the country indicated.

20. Giving all due weight, therefore, to the Collector's opinion, which is entitled to the greatest consideration, I beg nevertheless strongly to urge, for the reasons given above, that the enchancement of rates advocated by him should be confined to the three villages specially named by me, and in their case, too, I consider it is advisable that the higher maximum should be applied only to the better kinds of soil, as the inferior are seldom irrigated as a rule, and besides, if irrigated, they would not benefit by percolation to the same extent as the deep black soils.

21. With regard to the rates for patusthul irrigation, which is of considerable extent, and has an important bearing upon the new settlement. On examining the statement appended, giving the results of the rates in detail, I observe that in the villages of the two districts there are altogether 7,207 acres recorded under this

head, of which 3,823 belong to Dindori and 3,384 to Chandore. The Superintendent proposes to have a maximum rate of Rs. 9 for the best bundaras in which the supply is entirely perennial, fixing lower maximum rates with reference to the capability of the bundara and duration of its supply for each individual village. He has, I know, devoted much personal attention to the fixing of the patusthul rates. I would also mention that I inspected several villages with him this season, and have thus had an opportunity of satisfying myself of the general correctness of his classification of the several works.

22. The patusthul assessment under the proposed rates is estimated to amount altogether to 31,843 rupees, which gives an average rate of Rs. 4-6-8 per acre on the whole recorded area. This is for the water-supply alone, being exclusive of the land assessment which is separately shown. The rates are moderate, and relatively considerably lower than have been imposed on similar works in Khandesh, but I have all along been apprehensive that the rates there would be found to be somewhat too high, and it is desirable, therefore, to have a lower scale, such as we may feel assured will be found to be sufficiently moderate to ensure their successful working, and I feel confident the proposed rates will be found to be so.

23. In connection with the rates of patusthul lands the Superintendent has raised the question as to whether we can now assess lands not hitherto bearing patusthul rates, which have been brought under irrigation by works constructed solely by the cultivator's capital during the currency of the lease. It would appear at the outset that, according to the terms of Section XXX. of the Survey Act, which is quoted by the Superintendent as the rule bearing in the case, we are precluded from putting an assessment on the lands irrigated from the works in question, for it is distinctly laid down therein that a revised assessment is to be fixed "not with reference to improvements made by the owners or occupants from private capital and resources during the currency of any settlement under this Act, but with reference to general considerations of the value of land, whether as to soil or situation, prices of produce or facilities of communication."

24. It will be seen, however, from Mr. Erskine's remarks upon this subject, that he inclines to the opinion that the foregoing proviso is not to be considered applicable in cases where the works have been constructed without the sanction of Government, and there is obviously a considerable difference between the construction of a well in a man's own holding and the unauthorized construction of a bundara in the bed of a public stream. Moreover, as

he observes, Government have always jealously retained their right to the bed of rivers, and the right also, it may be added, of regulating the use of water obtainable from them.

25. I am inclined to think that Mr. Erskine takes the proper view of the matter, although at the same time it is clearly a case in which the improved value of the land has resulted from the expenditure of private capital. The question should, I think, be referred for further report through the Revenue and Survey Officers before final orders are passed upon it.

26. The course proposed for adoption in regard to lands watered from wells has already been approved of by Government, and is in accordance with the recent ruling in the matter.

27. It remains for me to notice the effect of the Superintendent's proposals. Following the course adopted throughout the report, he shows the result for each district separately. The increase, it will be observed, amounts to Rs. 20,728 for the Chandore and to Rs. 27,477 for the Dindori villages, being in the aggregate Rs. 48,205 for the two combined, and being also equivalent to an enhancement of 51 per cent. on the present assessment. The increase falls pretty evenly, being 52 per cent. for the Chandore and 51 for the Dindori villages.

28. In paras. 46 and 47 the Superintendent explains the causes of the unusually large increase which occurs in a few villages. The most remarkable case is that of Gurhale, containing an area of 1,278 acres, of which no less than 823 acres were shown as unarable under the first settlement, whereas under the recent careful re-classification only 240 acres have been entered under that head. As proof, however, of the poor soils being put into a low scale of valuation, we have the fact of our present average rate in this village being 3 as. 11 p. in place of 5 as. 11 p. per acre under the former classification.

29. On a full consideration of all the circumstances of the case, I have come to the conclusion that the Superintendent has been moderate to the full extent required by recent Government instructions in the revised demand proposed for this district. It possesses, as I have before said, considerable natural advantages, and if we consider the general rise in prices, and the great improvements in communications with have been brought about since the first settlement was introduced, there can, I think, be no question that it can well afford to pay a rental equivalent, as mentioned by Mr. Erskine, to the former kumal assessment of the Chandore villages, and 18 per cent. in excess of that standard assessment for those of the Dindori Taluka.

30. In conclusion, I beg to submit the following extract of a letter from the Superintendent, affording explanation as to the cause for his report not having been sent in till some time after it was due. Replying to my reference he observes :

"The Survey Commissioner brings to the Superintendent's notice that this report is long over-due. The Superintendent is aware that Government have fixed the 31st of December as the latest date on which settlement reports are to be submitted. But he would respectfully represent that he has more than once remonstrated against this order, and pointed out that it is quite impossible that it can be complied with, especially in cases where it is necessary, as it was in the present instance, for the Superintendent to visit the district after the field season has commenced, before submitting his report. Even now a proposal is under consideration for the passing of an Act extending the period up to which resignations of land may be accepted (and consequently revised settlements introduced) to the 5th June in the year of settlement. From this it would appear that Government themselves recognized the difficulty under which Survey Officers labour with regard to the submission of their reports within the period at present prescribed, and the consequent inconvenience to Government which arises from the impossibility of the revised settlements being introduced before the 31st March."

J. T. FRANCIS, Colonel,
Survey and Settlement Commissioner, N.D.

No. 2446.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 15th May 1874.

RESOLUTION.—These papers contain proposals for the introduction of revised rates of assessment into 98 villages of the Nasik Collectorate ; 45 of these belong to the Chandore, 38 to the Dindori, 11 to the Niphar, and 4 to the Nasik Talukas. The manner in which they have been presented to Government is extremely inconvenient, and it is requested that when in future proposals for revision in separate villages in adjacent talukas are sent in, they may be combined in one map taking in the whole of the talukas. The map should also be on a sufficiently large scale to embrace the railway stations or markets with reference to which the villages are proposed to be grouped.

2. Proposals for revision of assessment in adjoining villages, the conditions of which were almost precisely similar, have been recently very fully considered and sanctioned by Government.* It will, therefore, be sufficient on this occasion briefly to notice the results of the proposals submitted.

* *Vide* Government Resolution No. 2077, dated 30th April 1872.

3. It is to be regretted that no statistical information is available by which the material condition of these villages prior to the introduction of the late survey and assessment in 1842 can be compared with that now existing. It is indisputable, however, that considerable progress has been made, and that the people have been vastly benefited, by the increase in prices, by the opening out of communications, and especially by the construction of the railway.

4. The following figures show the average realizations from these villages during the five years from 1837-38 to 1841-42 preceding the introduction of the first survey :—

Years.	Number of Villages.	Total assessment excluding Inam.	Deduct assessment on unoccupied land.	Assessment on occupied land.	Remissions.	Collections
Average of the years from 1837-38 to 1841-42	98	1,44,129	53,918	90,211	7,929	82,329

5. The collections during each of the three decades of the past settlement are shown below :—

Period.	Average Annual Collections.	Increase over preceding period.	Increase over 10 years' preceding settlement.	Per cent. Increase. Over preceding period.	Per cent. Increase. Over 10 years' preceding settlement.	Remissions.	Percentage of remissions to total assessment.	Remarks.
Ten years from 1832 to 1841	74,895	...	...	...	...	8897	11·88	
Ten years from 1842 to 1851	75,961	1,066	1,066	1·4	1·4	653	0·86	
Ten years from 1852 to 1861	82,524	6,563	7,629	8·6	10·2	152	·18	
Eleven years from 1862 to 1872	91,347	8,823	16,452	10·7	21·9	36	...	

6. It is proposed to group these villages into six classes with maximum rates ranging from Rs. 2-4-0 to Rs. 1-4-0. The highest rate has been made applicable to only one village near Nasik, and the second highest (Rs. 2) to only seven villages. The result is, in the case of the Chandore villages, an average assessment of 10 annas 1 pie, and in the Dindori villages one of 12 annas 4 pies per

acre, in lieu of annas 6 pies 8 and annas 8 respectively. The proposed rates are considered both by the Collector and Revenue Commissioner moderate. The latter refers to the remonstrance of the late Revenue Commissioner against the unnecessarily low pitch of the rates as compared with the average produce, and in pointing out that the pressure on wheat-bearing lands according to these proposals will equal about one-twentieth of the produce, states he should have considered it his duty to recommend an enhancement more in proportion to the rise in prices were it not for the inconsistency of imposing much higher rates than have been sanctioned for adjacent villages. He also objects to the gradations of maximum rates of assessment in groups of villages within a few miles of each other. In this respect, however, Government do not concur with him in opinion. Land no doubt does gradually decrease in value as it recedes from the market where its produce can be disposed of, and such reductions of rate, although roughly made, do practically, in conjunction with the classification of the soil, represent such gradual decrease in letting value. Mr. Erskine proposes to raise a group of eight villages situated in the western portion of the Dindori Taluka from the fourth class (Rs. 1-8-0) to the third class (Rs. 1-12-0). He considers that these villages have almost equal facilities in the way of communications as the more eastern ones on the Agra road, and that the proximity to the Palkheir Lake gives them the advantage of the moisture obtained from percolation. Colonel Francis, having consulted the Superintendent, who concurs with him, would raise only four out of the eight, namely, Palkheir, Pimpalgaon, Khetki, and Jopul. The Revenue Commissioner, however, concurs with the Collector. Mr. Erskine's arguments on this point are so conclusive that His Excellency in Council considers the whole eight villages should be raised as he proposes.

7. The effect of the proposed rates as first submitted are shown below. They give an increase of Rs. 48,083 over the present assessment, or one of 51 per cent :—

	Occupied Land.		Unoccupied Land.		Grand Total.	
	Area.	Assessment.	Area.	Assessment.	Area.	Assessment.
	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Area and assessment according to proposed rates	1,60,870	1,40,447	4,167	1,127	1,65,037	1,41,574
Do. do. present survey	1,38,503	92,470	3,330	1,023	1,41,833	93,491
Increase...	22,367	47,977	837	104	23,204	48,083
Decrease...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

8. According to the late survey, 40,672 acres, or 28·6 per cent. of the assessable land, were deducted as unculturable: now only 15,463 have been deducted on this account. The Superintendent considers the allowance thus made correct and fair. It is to be regretted that the instructions recently issued were not received in time to admit of the required information on this subject being prepared and submitted. The circumstances under which land previously held to be unculturable has been subjected to assessment require the most careful consideration. There can be no doubt that claims to exemption on the score of expenditure of labour or capital should be fully and liberally dealt with, and that, as a rule, land of this description should be very lowly classed.

9. The settlement reports that have been submitted of late years have been singularly devoid of all information relative t the classification value set on the different description of lands. Government desire the Survey Commissioners will jointly report the form in which the requisite particulars can best be submitted in an intelligible manner and without unnecessary detail. The statistical information has not on this occasion been submitted in the prescribed form. It is the wish of Government that as talukas now come under settlement, a complete record of their revenue, history, and statistics should be made with a view eventually to a revenue atlas being compiled for each Collectorate. As a step towards this object it will be advisable that the several reports should, after sanction has been accorded, be recast into one consistent narrative

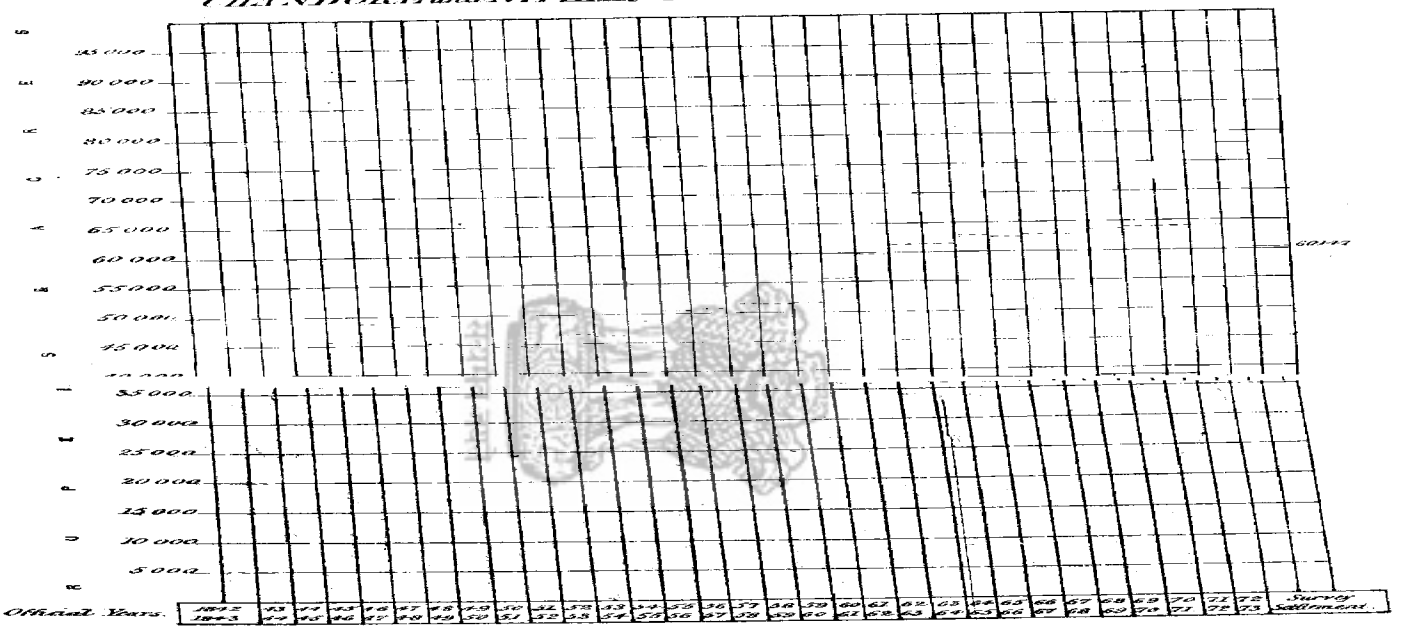
10. Government presume that the assessment on lands irrigated from wells which have been constructed during the period of guarantee has not been enhanced in consequence. If there is a doubt on this point it should be cleared up. The patusthul assessment seems moderate, the average rate being Rs. 4-6-8 per acre, and may be sanctioned. No extra assessment should be imposed in cases where a bundara, whether pucka or kucha, or whether constructed with or without the consent of Government, has been built during the period of guarantee. For the future the people should be told to ask for permission, and the Collector should be desired to report in what manner the order that they shall not erect bundaras without permission, can best be enforced. The rates on the lands irrigated from the Palkheir Lake will be settled by the Irrigation Department.

11. The proposed rates are now sanctioned, and the usual notification should be submitted for publication.

F. S. CHAPMAN,

Chief Secretary to Government.

DIAGRAM exhibiting the Extent of GOVERNMENT LAND annually under CULTIVATION for the last 31 Years in 36 Villages of the CHANDOR and NIPHAR TALOOKA and the Net Revenue

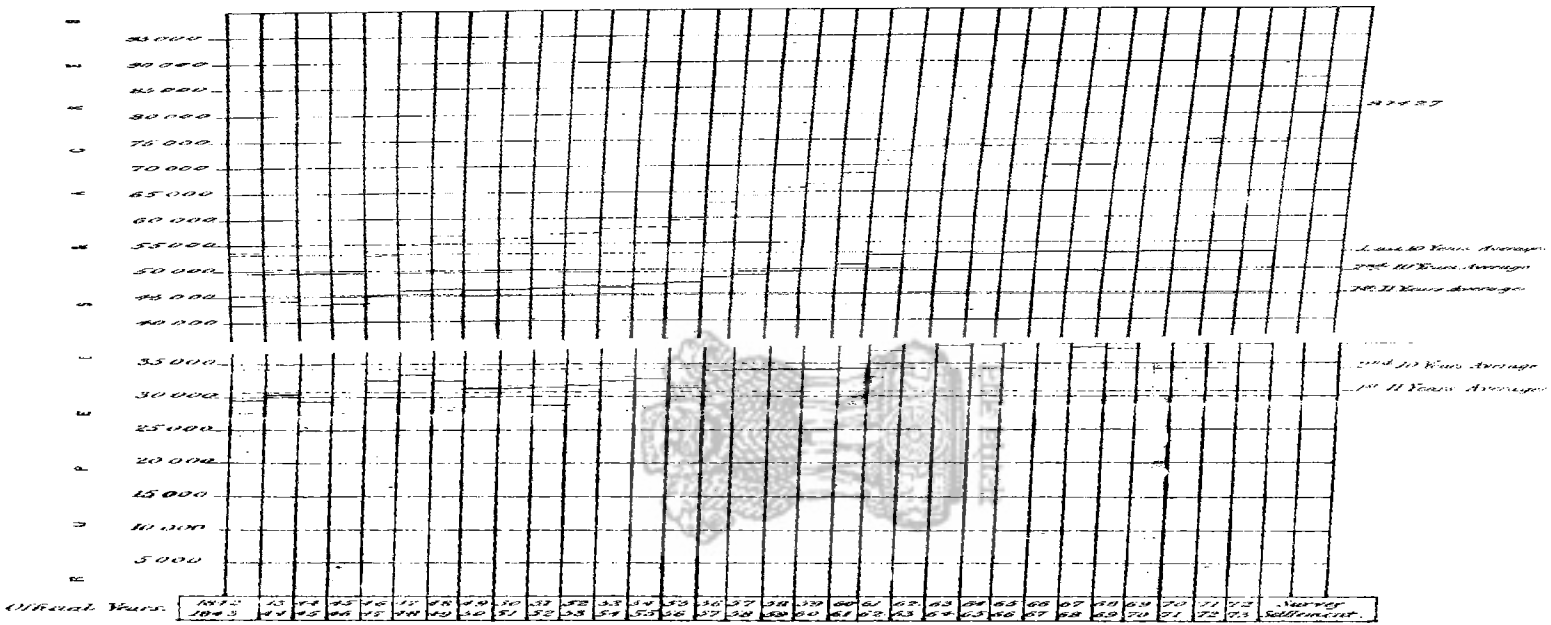


EXPLANATION

1 The various items are measured by the Scale of Acres and Rupees across the Diagram.
2 The summit of the Darker Shaded portion indicates the Rental and of the Lighter the Gross Assessment on the Cultivated land; the intermediate spaces the Remissions.
3 The Horizontal broken lines show the amount of cultivation in Acres for each year.
4 The Red lines show the average Net Rental for 10-21 and 31 Years.
5 The Yellow Column shows total Acres by the new measurement and the Blue the estimated Rental according to proposed Rates of Assessment.

W. Waddington, Lieut. Col.
Supdt. Rev. Survey and Assess. Poona & Nassick.

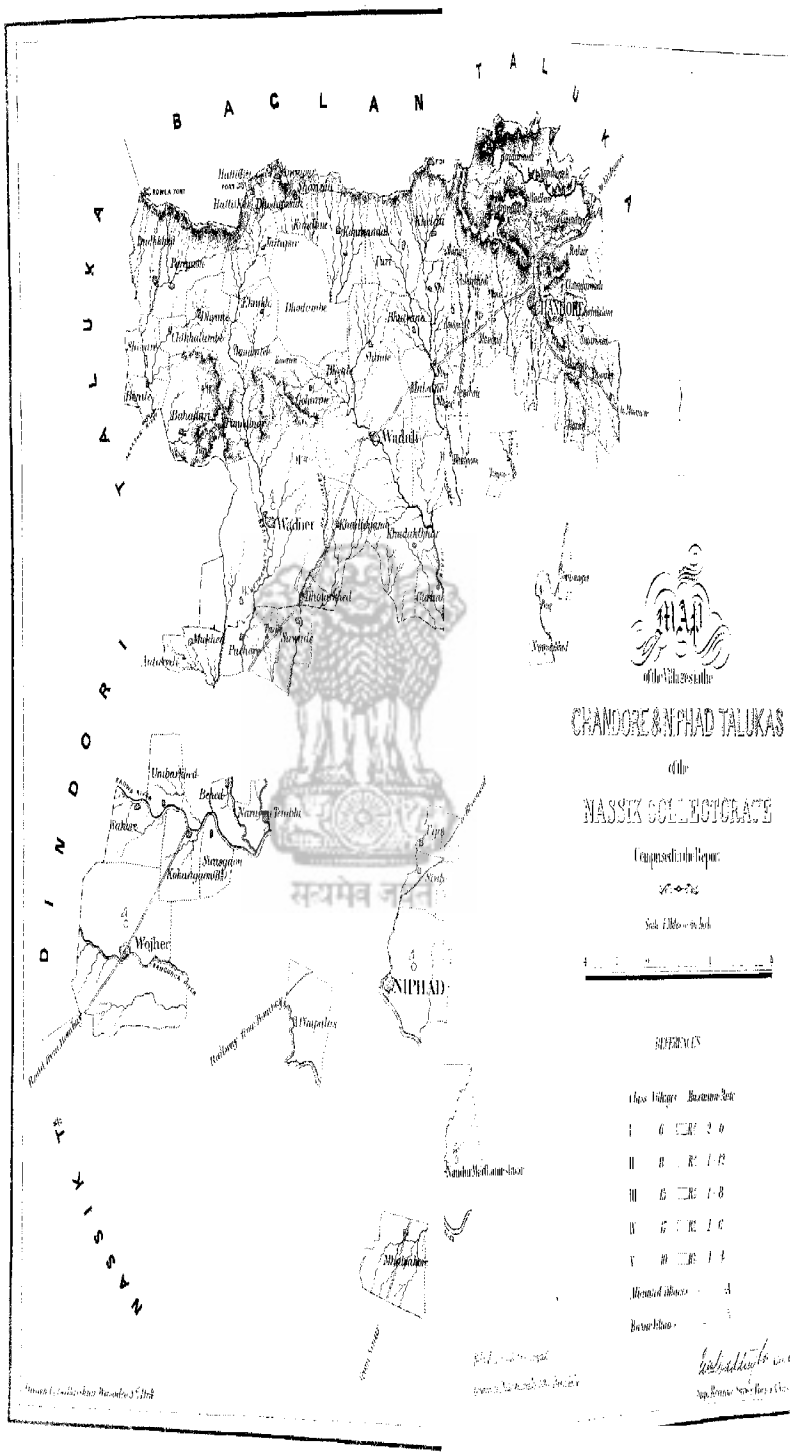
DIAGRAM [illegible] GOVERNMENT LAND annually under CULTIVATION for the last 31 Years in 42 Villages of the DINDORI TALOOKA and the Net Revenue

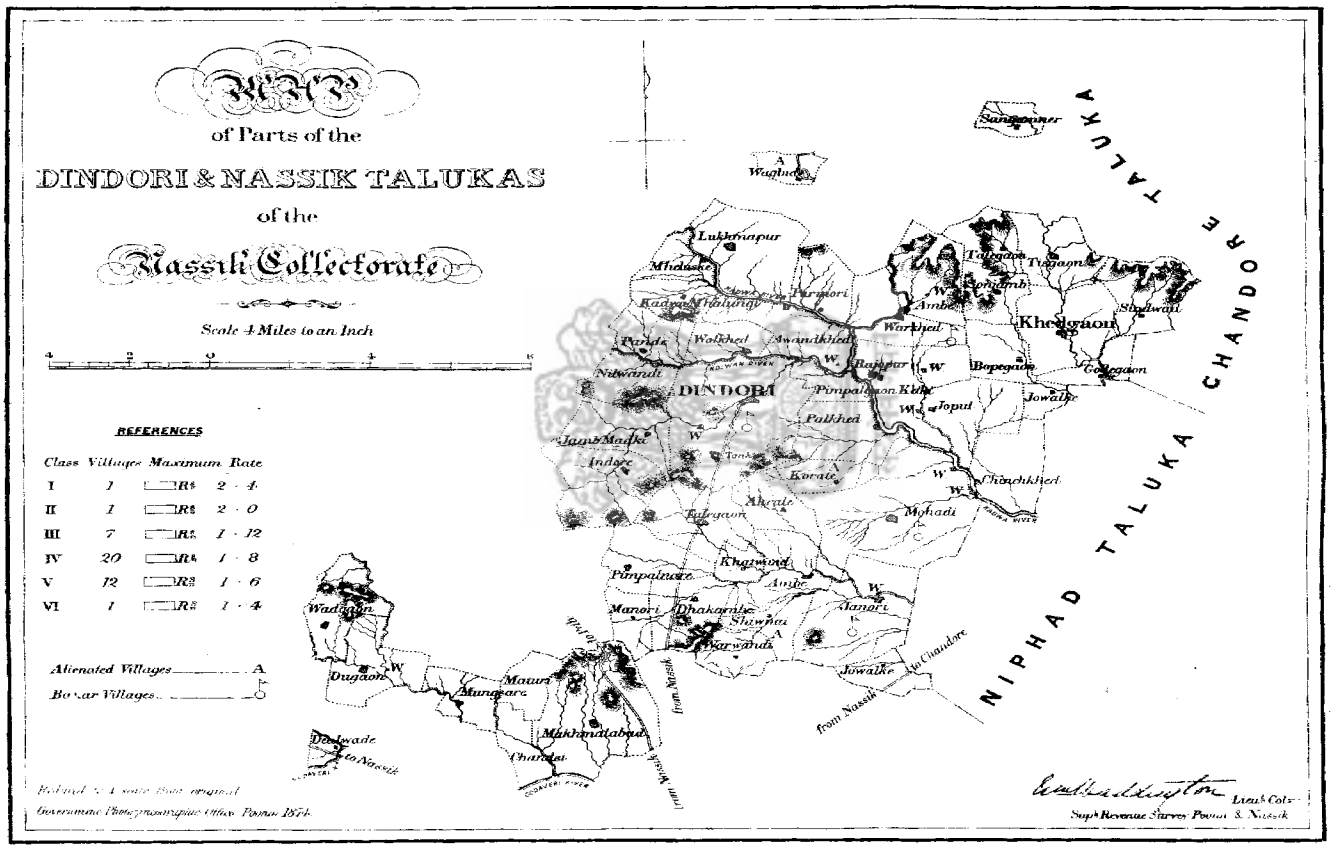


EXPLANATION

1. The various items are measured by the Scale of Acres and Rupees across the Diagram
2. The summit of the Darker Shaded portion indicates the Rental and of the Lighter the Gross Assessment on the Cultivated land, the intermediate spaces the Remissions.
3. The Horizontal broken lines show the amount of cultivation in Acres for each year
4. The Red lines show the average Net Rental for 10-21 and 31 Years.
5. The Yellow Column shows total Acres by the new measurement and the Blue the estimated Rental according to proposed Rates of Assessment.

W. Waddington, Lieut. Coll.,
Supdt. Rev. Survey and Assess. Poona & Nassick.


BAGLAN TALUKA
DINDORI TALUKA
NASSIK T.
CHANDORE
Wadidi
Wadner
Wojhee
NIPHAD
of the Villages in the
CHANDORE & NIPHAD TALUKAS
of the
NASSIK COLLECTORATE
Compared in the Report
REFERENCES
Class Villages Basavana Rate
I 6 R. 2 0
II 8 R. 1 12
III 15 R. 1 8
IV 17 R. 1 6
V 10 R. 1 4
Mounted Villages
Basavana Villages



of Parts of the
DINDORI & NASSIK TALUKAS
of the
Nassik Collectorate
Scale 4 Miles to an Inch
REFERENCES
Class Villages Maximum Rate
I 1 R⁴ 2 · 4
II 1 R⁴ 2 · 0
III 7 R⁴ 1 · 12
IV 20 R⁴ 1 · 8
V 12 R⁴ 1 · 6
VI 1 R⁴ 1 · 4
Alienated Villages A
Bazar Villages
Waghda
Lukhmapur
Mhelusk
Kadva Mhalungi
Parmori
Pande
Walkhed
Awandkhed
Nilwandi
DINDORI
Jamb Madki
Indore
Korate
Ahrale
Talegaon
Khatwand
Pimpalnare
Manori
Dhakambe
Shiwnai
Warwandi
Ambe
Warkhed
Rajapur
Pimpalgaon Kalkh
Palkhed
Jopul
Mohadi
Chinchkhed
Jowalke
Khedgaon
Bopegaon
Gollegaon
Tulgaon
Sindwani
Sangamner
Wadgaon
Dugaon
Mauri
Mungsare
Makhmalabad
Chandsi
Dadwade
to Nassik
from Nassik
from Nassik
to Chandore
from Nassik
NIPHAD TALUKA
CHANDORE TALUKA
Lieut. Col.
Supt. Revenue Survey Poona & Nassik
Government Photozinographic Office Poona 1874.